André-Jacques Garnerin was born in Paris on January 31, 1769 and died on the 18th of August 1823. He was a balloonist and the inventor of the frameless parachute. He was appointed Official Aeronaut of France.

André was a student to the ballooning pioneer professor Jacques Charles. He was involved in the making and the flight of hot air balloons, and worked with his brother Jean-Baptiste-Oliver Garnerin in most of his ballooning adventures. Eventually he was appointed Official Aeronaut of France.

Garnerin began experiments with parachutes based on umbrella-shaped devices and was the first person to perform a parachute descent with a silk parachute on October 22, 1797 at Parc Monceau, Paris. Andrés first parachute looked like a closed umbrella before he rose in his balloon, with a pole running down its centre and a rope running through a tube in the pole, which connected it to the balloon. Garnerin rode in a basket attached to the bottom of the parachute; at a height of approximately 900 metres he cut the rope that connected his parachute to the balloon. Hejumped out with his parachute and the balloon continuing to rise. The basket swung violently during descent, then bumped and scraped when it landed, but André came out uninjured. The white canvas parachute was umbrella-shaped and approximately (7 m) in diameter.

Garnerin died in a construction accident when he was hit by a beam while making a balloon in Paris.

By Pearl Bergin